

## Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 SS-15 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00

SSO-00 /060 W

----- 128291

O 300745Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6842

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ELAB, BC

SUBJECT: DISORDERS AT SELEBI-PIKWE

REF: A) STATE 178818: B) GABORONE 1006

1. DCM SPOKE TO BCL GROUP SECRETARY COURTNEY UPONE HIS RETURN FROM SELEBI-PIKWE NIGHT OF JULY 29. COURTNEY REGARDS SITUATION AS SERIOUS. SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN UNREST OVER SALARY PROBLEMS FOR QUOTE A FEW DAYS END QUOTE BUT NOTHING OF THE MAGNITUDE TO SUGGEST THE KINDS OF DISORDERS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED. FOLLOWING IS COURTNEY'S REPORT OF THE SITUATION.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 0500 JULY 29 A NUMBER OF PICKETS APPEARED AT THE GATES OF THE MINE; CROWD BUILT UP; THE NIGHT SHIFT WAS CLOSED DOWN; ROCKS WERE THROWN INTO THE SMELTERS, BUT LATER INVESTIGATIONS INDICATES DAMAGES ONLY SUPERFICIAL.

3. THE CROWD GRABBED VEHILCES, MOVED INTO SELEBI-PIKWE  
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PROPER AND ADVANCED ON PRIMARY SCHOOLS USED MAINLY BY

EXPATRIATE CHILDREN. POLICE MOBILE UNIT, FORTUNATELY, WAS PRESENT AT SCHOOL AND CROWD MOVED AWAY. CROWD WAS OUT OF CONTROL MOST OF THE DAY AND THERE WERE SOME INJURIES REPORTED.

4. VICE PRESIDENT WHO HAD FLOWN UP JULY 29 (REF B), ATTEMPTED TO ADDRESS THE GROUP APPEALING TO THEM TO DISPERSE. CROWD REFUSED AND BEGAN HARRASSING THE POLICE MOBILE UNIT ESCORTING VICE PRESIDENT, WHICH RESPONDED WITH TEAR GAS.

5. COURTNEY SAID THAT PLANT IS NOW SHUT DOWN. ALL WORKERS HAVE BEEN TERMINATED AND WILL BE SELECTIVELY REHIRED. THOSE AGAINST WHOME THERE IS EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL ACTION WILL BE HANDLED BY THE POLICE. COURTNEY HIMSELF BELIEVES THAT VIOLENCE WAS INSTIGATED BY LONG-TERM AGITATORS WHO MAY BE KNOWN TO THE POLICE.

6. AS OF 0900 JULY 30 LOCAL TIME, THE POLICE AUTHORITIES IN GABORONE UNDERSTAND SITUATION HAS REMAINED CALM DURING THE NIGHT. SEVENTY PERSONS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED INCLUDING SOME BELIEVED TO BE RING LEADERS. AT 0500, OVER 500 WORKERS ATTEMPTED TO REPORT TO WORK BUT WERE TURNED AWAY (THIS IS IN LINE WITH COURTNEY'S REPORT THAT PLANT WILL REMAIN CLOSED).

7. POLICE ALSO REPORT THAT BASED ON AVAILABLE INFORMATION, ONE OR TWO EXPATRIATES INJURED, NONE SERIOUSLY; U.S. CITS INVOLVED IN TECHNICAL WORK ON MINE WERE REMOVED BEFORE VIOLENCE REACHED HIGH POINT AND WERE NOT INVOLVED OR INJURED.

8. EMBASSY ATTEMPTING TO REACH SELEBI-PIKWE BY PHONE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESIDENT KHAMA WILL MAKE AN ADDRESS ON THIS SUBJECT AT 12 NOON LOCAL TIME. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE REPORTED AS OBTAINED.

BOLEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAGES, MINING, LABOR STRIKES, CIVIL DISORDERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Subject:** DISORDERS AT SELEBI-PIKWE  
**TAGS:** PINS, ELAB, BC  
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